EXCISE

Department of State

TELE

2237

CONFIDENTIAL

AN: D800168-0952

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GEORGE 01404 0300272 POSS DUPE
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 FBI-03 H-01 JUS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 OCS-06 CA-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02
/061 W
----------019850 0302572 /20
R 2818442 MAR 80
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2067
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1404

BOGOTA FOR LEGATT

E.O. 12065: GDS 3/27/86 (DWYER, RICHARD A.) OR-M
TAGS: PINT, CGEN GY
SUBJ: JONESTOWN ENQUIRY COMMISSION

1. (U) JUST A YEAR AGO, THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA (GOG) ANNOUNCED THAT COURT OF APPELAS JUSTICE VICTOR CRANE WOULD HEAD A COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY TO LOOK INTO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PEOPLES TEMPLE IN GUYANA WHICH CULMINATED WITH THE SUICIDES/MURDERS OF MORE THAN 900 AMERICAN CITIZENS AT JONESTOWN IN NOVEMBER OF 1978. SINCE CRANCE'S APPOINTMENT THERE HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY NO FURTHER WORD ABOUT THE ENQUIRY IN THE GOVERNEMENT-OWNED MEDIA, ALTHOUGH THE OPPOSITION WEEKLIES HAVE COMPLAINED PERIODICALLY ABOVUT THE INACTION OF THE GOVERNMENT. IN THE INTERIM, CRANE HAS FIRST BEEN APPOINTED CHIEF JUSTINCE AND MEN CHANCELLOR OF THE JUDICIARY, THE MOST SENIOR JUDICIAL POSITION IN GUYANA.

2. (U) APPARENTLY IN RESPONSE TO CRITICISMS IN PARLIAMENT THAT THE GOG HAD PROCEEDED IN ITS

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GEORGE 01404 0300272 POSS DUPE

JONESTOWN INVESTIGATION NO FURTHER THAN THE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE - A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY DATE 2/26/81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

APPOINTMENT OF GRANCE, THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED "CHRONICLE" OF MARCH 27 ENQUIRY COMMISSION. DISCUSSING THE JONESTOWN ENQUIRY COMMISSION, CHANCELLOR CRANE IS REPORTED TO HAVE STATED THAT HE WOULD INDEED CARRY OUT THE INQUIRY "ONCE HE IS CALLED UPON BY THE GOVERNMENT" TO TO DOS. THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE REITERATED THE STATEMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION ISSUED PREVIOUSLY THAT THE ENQUIRY SHOULD NOT PREJUDICE THE LEGAL RIGHTS TO FAIR TRIALS OF INDIVIDUABEFORE THE COURSE, I.E., LAWRENCE LA AND CHARLES BEIKMAN.

3. (C) COMMENT: THAY TRIAL IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN APRIL 1, 1980. THE TRIAL OF BEIKMAN IS ALSO SET FOR THIS SESSION OF THE ASSIZES, ALTHOUGH NO SPECIFIC DATE FOR THE LATTER HAS YET BEEN DETERMINED. ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS IN THE DIRECTOR OF PULBIC PROSECUTIONS' OFFICE, IT IS LIKELY LAYTON WILL BE FIRST TRIED FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER. BECAUSE THE GOG HAS BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN THE AREQUISITED WITNESSES FROM THE UNITED STATES, THE CHARGE AGAINST LAYTON OF THE MURDER OF CONGRESSMAN RYAN AND FOUR OTHERS PROBABLY WILL NOT BE PROSECUTED, IF AT ALL, UNITL A LATER DATE.

B1/E D